

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A permanent antimicrobial melamine resin, comprising:
melamine; and
~~at least one~~ a first antimicrobial agent;
wherein ~~one of the~~ first antimicrobial agent ~~agents~~ is an isothiazolone based compound.

2. (Original) The permanent antimicrobial melamine resin claimed in claim 1,
wherein the isothiazolone based compound is selected from the group consisting of 1,2-
benzisothiazolin-3-one, N-butyl-1,2-benzisothiazolin-3-one, 2-octyl-isothiazolone, 4,5-dichloro-
2-N-octyl-3 (2H)-isothiazolone, methyl-3(2H)-isothiazolone, and chloro-2-methyl- 3(2H)-
isothiazolone.

Cancel claim 3.

4. (Currently Amended) The permanent antimicrobial melamine resin according to
claim 2, is further ~~comprised of~~ comprising:

~~at least one other~~ a second antimicrobial agent ~~that is a chemical~~ selected from the group
consisting of triclosan, ortho phenyl phenol, diiodomethylp-tolylsulfone, zinc pyrithiones, sodium
pyrithiones, azoles such as propiconazoles, poly (hexamethylene biguanide) hydrochloride,
3,4,4'-trichlorocarbanilide, barium monohydrate and silver, copper or zinc in zeolite or
amorphous glass powder.

Cancel claim 5.

6. (Currently Amended) The permanent antimicrobial melamine resin as claimed in
claim 4, wherein ~~said at least one other~~ the second antimicrobial agent is ~~preferably~~ triclosan.

Cancel claims 7-8.

9. (Currently Amended) The permanent antimicrobial melamine resin, ~~according to~~ of claim 1, wherein the weight percent addition of the first antimicrobial agent is about 0.1 % to about 5 % ~~on~~ of the weight of the melamine resin, ~~with a preferred range of 0.3 to 1.0%.~~

Cancel claim 10.

11. (New) The permanent antimicrobial melamine resin of claim 1 wherein the weight percent addition of the first antimicrobial agent is in the range of about 0.3 % to about 1.0 % of the weight of the melamine resin.

12. (New) A decorative laminate having durable antimicrobial properties, comprising:
an overlay sheet impregnated with a melamine resin including a dispersion;
a first antimicrobial agent in said dispersion, said antimicrobial agent being isothiazolone based;
a printed paper sheet impregnated with a melamine formaldehyde; and
a high density core fiberboard impregnated with a phenolic resin or a melamine resin.

13. (New) The decorative laminate of claim 12, further comprising:
a second antimicrobial agent.

14. (New) The decorative laminate of claim 12 wherein the second antimicrobial agent is one of: triclosan; ortho phenyl phenol; diiodomethyl p-tolylsulfone; zinc pyrithione; sodium pyrithione; an azole; poly (hexamethylene biguanide) hydrochloride; 3,4, 4'-trichlorocarbanilide; barium monohydrate; silver, copper or zinc in zeolite; or silver, copper or zinc in amorphous glass powder.

15. (Original) The decorative laminate of claim 12, further comprising:
a second high density core fiberboard impregnated with a phenolic resin or a melamine resin.

16. (New) The decorative laminate of claim 12 wherein said laminate is cured in a press at a pressure in the range of about 1000 psi to about 1500 psi and a temperature in the range of about 170° to about 210° C.

17. (New) The decorative laminate of claim 16 wherein said laminate is cured at a temperature of about 190° C.

18. (New) The decorative laminate as claimed in claim 12 wherein the weight percent addition of the antimicrobial agent is about 0.1% to about 5 % of the weight of the melamine resin.

19. (New) The decorative laminate as claimed in claim 18 wherein the weight percent addition of the antimicrobial agent is about 0.3 to about 1.0% of the weight of the melamine resin.

20. (New) A laminate article, comprising:
an overlay sheet impregnated with a melamine resin including a dispersion;
an isothiazolone-based first antimicrobial agent in said dispersion;
a decorative paper sheet impregnated with a melamine formaldehyde; and
a substrate.

21. (New) The laminate article of claim 20 wherein the article is one of a countertop, a tabletop, a desktop, or a flooring article.

22. (New) The laminate article of claim 20, further comprising:
a second antimicrobial agent.

23. (New) The laminate article of claim 20 wherein the second antimicrobial agent is one of: triclosan; ortho phenyl phenol; diiodomethyl p-tolylsulfone; zinc pyrithione; sodium pyrithione; an azole; poly (hexamethylene biguanide) hydrochloride; 3,4, 4'-trichlorocarbanilide; barium monohydrate; silver, copper or zinc in zeolite; or silver, copper or zinc in amorphous glass powder.

24. (Original) The laminate article of claim 20, further comprising:
a second high density core fiberboard impregnated with a phenolic resin or a melamine resin.

25. (New) The laminate article of claim 20 wherein said laminate is cured in a press at a pressure in the range of about 1000 psi to about 1500 psi and a temperature in the range of about 170° to about 210° C.

26. (New) The laminate article of claim 25 wherein said laminate is cured at a temperature of about 190° C.

27. (New) The laminate article as claimed in claim 20 wherein the weight percent addition of the antimicrobial agent is about 0.1% to about 5 % of the weight of the melamine resin.

28. (New) The laminate article as claimed in claim 27 wherein the weight percent addition of the antimicrobial agent is about 0.3 to about 1.0% of the weight of the melamine resin.

29. (New) An antimicrobial molded melamine article, comprising:
melamine resin; and
an isothiazolone-based first antimicrobial agent substantially permanently incorporated in said melamine resin.

30. (Original) The antimicrobial molded melamine article of claim 29 wherein the first antimicrobial agent is selected from the group consisting of: 1,2-benzisothiazolin-3-one; N-butyl-1,2-benzisothiazolin-3-one; 2-octyl-isothiazolone; 4,5-dichloro-2-N-octyl-3 (2H)-isothiazolone; methyl-3(2H)-isothiazolone; and chloro-2-methyl- 3(2H)-isothiazolone.

31. (New) The antimicrobial molded melamine article wherein the article is a dinnerware article, a picnicware article, a cup, a cutlery article, or a kitchen utensil.

32. (New) The antimicrobial molded melamine article of claim 29, further comprising:

a second antimicrobial agent comprising one of triclosan; ortho phenyl phenol; diiodomethylp-tolylsulfone; zinc pyrithione; sodium pyrithione; an azole; poly (hexamethylene biguanide) hydrochloride; 3,4,4'-trichlorocarbanilide; barium monohydrate; silver, copper or zinc in zeolite; or silver, copper or zinc in amorphous glass powder.

33. (Currently Amended) The antimicrobial molded melamine article as claimed in claim 32, wherein the second antimicrobial agent is triclosan.

34. (Currently Amended) The antimicrobial molded melamine article of claim 29, wherein the weight percent addition of the first antimicrobial agent is about 0.1 % to about 5 % of the weight of the melamine resin.

35. (New) The antimicrobial molded melamine article of claim 29 wherein the weight percent addition of the first antimicrobial agent is in the range of about 0.3 % to about 1.0 % of the weight of the melamine resin.